(b) if so, what the Government is doing in connection with waste management to reduce the bird hits of aircraft; and

(c) what the Ministry, in co-ordination with the Ministry of Urban Development is doing to concentrate on waste management in all the towns where there are IAF air fields?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Cleaning of the environment around the IAF airfields in coordination with concerned Ministry/Department/State Government/Local Civic Authorities is constantly pursued to create a hygienic environment in the interest of flight safety.

Indigenous development of AWACS

3011. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to develop Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) indigenously;

(b) if so, the present status of the project; and

(c) the time-frame within which it would be ready for use by our armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A programme for design and development of indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System was sanctioned to DRDO in October, 2004. The preliminary designs of various sub-systems of the AEW&C have been completed.

(c) The time frame for the completion of development activities and commencement of User trials is 78 months.

Utilisation of funds by MoD

3012. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and spent by the Ministry for the last three years;